

# SPARK GAP

Vol. 28, Issue 9, September 2011 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for twenty-seven Years*

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## HEATHKIT TO REENTER THE AMATEUR RADIO MARKET

Heathkit Educational Systems hopes to reenter the Amateur Radio market by the end of 2011. Back in August, Heathkit announced its return to the kit business and actively solicited suggestions. The response from Amateur Radio operators convinced Heathkit to develop several Amateur Radio products.



"When we made the announcement on our web page about a month ago, we had no intention of entering the Amateur Radio kit market," Ernie Wake, Heathkit's Director of Sales and Marketing, told the ARRL. "The response was really overwhelming, exciting and scary. The scary part is that the brand name has so much loyalty that we don't want to disappoint the people who have such fond memories."

Wake said that Heathkit is presently working on developing a few Amateur Radio kits. "Initially, the kit line will include a few 'accessories,' like kits for a Dual Watt Meter, Antenna Tuners and the Cantenna," he explained. "Once we are a little more 'settled,' I think we will develop a QRP receiver. We won't rush to market just to get there. We want to develop a line of kits in the tradition of Heathkit. I'm hoping to have one or two kits by the end-of-the-year."

.....ARRL Newsletter Sept. 16,2011

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From the President,

Next month a new and very capable president will take over the helm of the club. The two terms that I have been president seem to have gone rather quickly. I wish to thank the membership for making my tenure a pleasant one, and I hope I have served and performed my duties in a competent manner as you elected me to do. I especially want to thank the other elected and appointed members who gave me their much needed and appreciated advice and support. Without you, being president would have been a much more difficult task.

Even though I will not be an officer next year, I still plan to be involved in club activities. I request that everyone give the incoming president and the other officers the same support that you afforded me. Attend our monthly meetings, consider serving in an appointed position, and volunteer to help on committees or participate in special functions throughout the year. A good club needs active members to keep it viable and an enjoyable experience for all.

73,  
Steve K9DY

## PARP Episode 46-JT65 and much, much more

17 14 September 2011 | by [Jerry KDØBIK](#)



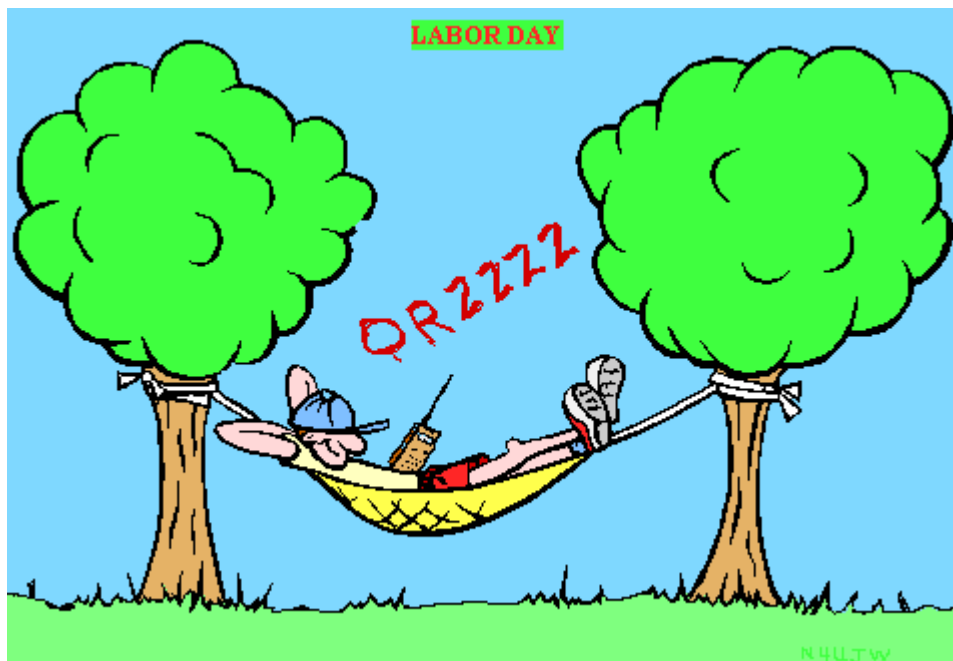
Another episode of the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast is available for streaming or download. In episode 46 I discuss the JT65 mode and JT65-HF software. In addition, I introduce listeners to the new Elmer Connection on the MyAmateurRadio.com website and share my good news on the extra upgrade and discuss plans of becoming a volunteer examiner (VE) to further give back to the hobby.

Please look for the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast in iTunes or direct from [MyAmateurRadio.com](#). Have an iPhone or other smart phone? You can also [stream direct from my mobile page](#). I hope you'll listen.

73,  
Jerry KDØBIK

*[Jerry Taylor, KDØBIK](#), is a regular contributor to [AmateurRadio.com](#) and writes from Colorado, USA. He is the host of the [Practical Amateur Radio Podcast](#). Contact him at [jerry@jerrygtaylor.com](mailto:jerry@jerrygtaylor.com).*

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# Amateur (ham) Radio Station Connects Retirement Community to the World With Purpose

*Residents of one retirement community ham radio to maintain friendship and even their own health.*



MITCHELLVILLE, Md., Aug. 29, 2011

When Grant Bagley and his wife decided to make the move to a retirement community, he believed he would have to give up ham radio, a lifelong hobby of his. The retired physician and attorney said he thought at the time, "I may have to give that up, but I can replace it with other things." Fortunately, his community, Collington, had plenty of other activities and interesting new friends to keep Grant occupied.

But not long after moving to the Continuing Care Retirement Community in suburban Washington, D.C., Grant connected with several other residents who were also 'hams.' Working with these individuals, Grant has helped set up a fully functional Amateur Radio center in the extensive woodshop at Collington. Not only will the radio station provide a venue for the enthusiasts, but as Grant said, "It will serve as an integral part of the emergency communications systems in the county."

When an emergency strikes, even if internet and phone systems are still working, they are often overloaded as everyone tries to use them at once. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) is a nationwide program of the ARRL – the national association for Amateur Radio. It provides Amateur Radio communications for critical organizations in emergencies. Emergency Management Centers, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, FEMA, CERT, National Weather Service, many hospitals and others have formal agreements with the hams. Ham radio volunteers have been lifesavers in the Haitian earthquake, Japanese tsunami, and in many hurricanes and tornadoes in the United States.

Despite this, it was a personal connection with a resident in the community's nursing and rehabilitation section that really opened the door to a meaningful purpose for the radio. Grant was recently approached by another resident with vision problems who told him, "I've lost my sight and the worst thing is I have nobody to talk to. I should have never gotten rid of my ham radio license."

Without hesitation, Grant had responded "Let's get you one again and you'll have all the people you want to talk to." Grant is working to help him study for the FCC tests needed to earn an Amateur Radio license. When discussing this connection, Grant could not help but beam with enthusiasm, saying, "He's going to be up here, so it's growing; it's great."

Grant continued, saying, "People think that ham radio is not as viable a hobby, but in this age of the Internet, it's even more so." This is right on track with American Radio Relay League, the national association for Amateur Radio in the United States. According to Allen Pitts at the ARRL's national headquarters, there are over 695,000 ham radio licensees in the United States today – more than ever before. Approximately 30,000 new hams earn their first licenses each year. "Collington is an excellent example of creative thinking in a retirement community. Their inclusion of Amateur Radio opens the doors to hands-on learning about wireless communication, provides social interaction in a most enjoyable hobby and also can quickly become a functional emergency communications option for residents."

While this may be a unique activity when compared to other retirement communities throughout the country, Collington is known for a robust list of activities all driven by a highly intelligent and diverse group of residents. Whether individuals are building and racing model sailboats or playing on the competitive croquet team, the community supports thinking creatively. "Collington is full of interesting people who really know how to live into life. We're all extremely active and very social. It's easy to find new friends", says long-time resident Marion Henry, who chairs two committees at Collington.

*Guide to Retirement Living SourceBook* founder and publisher, Steve Gurney, said, "We are thrilled to spotlight this unique and positive way of engaging residents in a retirement community. Stories like these help us break the stigma of life in a senior living community and they offer inspiration to seniors and families that this is the best time in life to engage in purposeful activities."

..... PRNewswire

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## **HAM Humor for hillbillies.....**

**A HAM NAMED ELMER LIVED WITH HIS XYL NAMED SUE.  
WHILE AT THE QTH ONE NIGHT, SUE SUDDENLY WENT QRT. (DIED).**

**ELMER PICKED UP THE PHONE, AND CALLED 911 AND REPORTED THAT HIS  
WIFE HAD JUST DIED AND COULD SOMEONE COME OVER TO PICK HER UP.  
THE OPERATOR ASKED FOR HIS ADDRESS AND ELMER SAID HE LIVED ON  
THE END OF EUCALYPTUS LANE...  
THE 911 OPERATOR ASKED HIM TO SPELL THAT.  
THERE WAS A LONG PAUSE ON THE END OF THE LINE AND THEN ELMER  
SAID.....**

***"HOW ABOUT I JUST DRAG HER OVER TO OAK STREET AND YOU MEET ME  
THERE"!!***

## 2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

# SEPTEMBER 2011

**17 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN (ANNUAL PICNIC, location TBA)**

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

# SEPTEMBER 2011

**24 GREENWOOD HS MARCHING BAND INVITATIONAL (club event)**

**Greenwood HS Smith Valley Rd (west of US31) evening event this year and all are needed to assist with parking cars and public safety. This can count as an ARES Exercise for 2011.**

# OCTOBER 2011

## 15 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

# NOVEMBER 2011

## 19 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

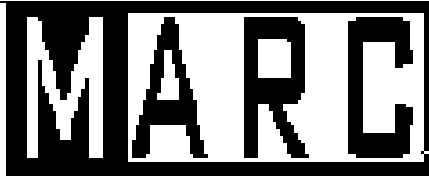
# DECEMBER 2011

## 17 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

## 2011 Indiana Hamfests

<b>August 27</b>	<b>Owen-Monroe Hamfest</b> , Owen County Fairgrounds, Spencer, IN , <a href="http://www.inarri.org/hamfest.html">http://www.inarri.org/hamfest.html</a>
<b>August 27</b>	<b>Ripley Co. Amateur Radio Club Hamfest</b> , Ripley County 4-H Fairgrounds, Osgood, IN
<b>Oct. 2</b>	<b>Hoosier Hills Hamfest</b> , Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds, 11261 US Hwy 50 West., Bedford , <a href="http://www.w9qyq.org/">http://www.w9qyq.org/</a>
<b>Oct. 8</b>	<b>LCARC Hamfest</b> , Lake County Fairgrounds, 889 S. Court Street, Crown Point, Indiana, <a href="http://www.lakenetnwi.net/member/lcarc/">http://www.lakenetnwi.net/member/lcarc/</a>
<b>Nov. 19-20</b>	<b>Indiana State Convention, Fort Wayne Hamfest &amp; Computer Expo</b> , Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, <a href="http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com">http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com</a>



## MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome, you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

***WA9RDF***  
***Repeater***  
***146.835/***  
***146.235 MHz***  
***151.4 Hz PL Tone***

***Club Officers:***  
***President: Steve Carmean - K9DY***  
***Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT***  
***Secretary: Robert Jones – KC9NJM***  
***Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG***  
***Repeater Trustee: Jay Chrismon – AA9YP***

***Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS***

### ***The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club***

***P.O. Box 836***  
***Franklin, Indiana***  
***46131***

***Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU***

***Please send your articles to my email [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month***

